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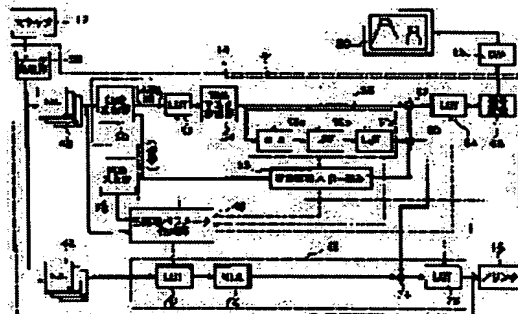
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(54) IMAGE PROCESSING UNIT

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an image processing unit by which an image close to the impression generated when a person sees an original scene is reproduced in an excellent way even when dodging is processed and gradation is controlled for each area.

SOLUTION: The image processing unit 14 is provided with fog-weighted image generating sections 50, 54, 56 that generate a fog-weighted image which connects smoothly a major part area and a background area of image data, a color reproduction parameter generating section 48 that generates at least either of a color reproduction parameter of the major area and a color reproduction parameter of the background area, and an output image generating section 46 that generates output image data from the image data by using at least either of the color reproduction parameter of the major area that is weighted by a weight of a fog-weighted image and a color reproduction parameter of the background area that is weighted by a difference of a reference value subtracted by the weight of the fog weight image, and the color reproduction parameters are weighted and summed by the weight of the respective



areas to obtain an output image.

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